

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 604

By Casada

A RESOLUTION recognizing Wilson Family Farm, a Tennessee Century Farm.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor and recognize those exceptional farming families who, through their dedication to the ancient and esteemed traditions of agriculture, have made significant contributions to their respective communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson family of Williamson County certainly ranks among those estimable Tennessee farming families; Wilson Family Farm, owned and operated by the family since 1893, has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm in recognition of its long and illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Century Farms Program recognizes those families who have owned and farmed the same land for over a century, and also documents and interprets the State's history and culture of farming; and

WHEREAS, located south of Franklin, off Lewisburg Pike, Wilson Family Farm was established in 1893 by John B. Bond; Mr. Bond was married to Emma Catherine Sprot, and the couple had three children: Leonard, Lucille, and Gladys; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Bond's day, the 140-acre farm produced cattle, swine, chickens, row crops, and tobacco; and

WHEREAS, John B. Bond's wife, Catherine, passed away in 1902, leaving John B. a single father, raising three children; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Bond, John B. Bond's son, was the second generation owner of the farm; Leonard was a World War I veteran and sustained injuries from mustard gas during the war; and

WHEREAS, following his return from war, Leonard Bond was married to Elise Core, and the couple had a daughter, Dorothy; in the 1940's Dorothy informally named the farm Maple Lawn Farm for the numerous maple trees that lined the farm's drive; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Bond raised horses on the farm, and Dorothy had a pony, which she rode to and from school; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Aaron B. Wilson, the great-grandson of the founder, and grandson of Gladys Bond Wilson, inherited the farm; he is married to Lynn Chester Wilson, and the couple has four children, Riley, Lucas, Landon, and Samantha; and

WHEREAS, Aaron B. Wilson and his family live on the farm today, and raise corn, soybeans, pumpkins, popcorn, wheat, and chickens; the family is also involved in Ace's Kettle Corn business; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State, the strength of its communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people such as the members of the Wilson family, who have demonstrated a deep respect for tradition and hard work and a love for the land; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate owners Aaron B. Wilson, Blake P. Wilson, Marilyn Wilson Hawkins, and Thomas P. Wilson, whose Wilson Family Farm has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm, commend the Wilson family for their dedication to agriculture, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.